

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A package, comprising:

a bottom panel;

a retaining panel; and

a polymeric bag, wherein said polymeric bag is substantially contained within an interior space defined by said bottom panel and said retaining panel, and wherein said polymeric bag is selectively secured to said bottom panel and said retaining panel such that said polymeric bag fails when either said bottom panel or said retaining panel are separated from said package.

2. A package according to Claim 1, further comprising a top panel being folded over said bottom panel at a fold line common to said top panel and said bottom panel.

3. A package according to Claim 2, wherein said top panel comprises a tear strip, said tear strip having an access tab formed at one end of said tear strip.

4. A package according to Claim 3, wherein said tear strip is formed by a plurality of perforations.

5. A package according to Claim 1, wherein said polymeric bag is substantially air-tight, such that its

failure exposes the interior of said polymeric bag to the environment.

6. A package according to Claim 5, wherein said polymeric bag holds a degradable media article.

7. A package according to Claim 5, wherein said polymeric bag holds contents comprising an additive.

8. A package according to Claim 7, wherein said additive is selected from the group consisting of preservatives, stabilizers, inhibitors, absorbents, and desiccants.

9. A package according to Claim 1, wherein said retaining panel defines an access opening for facilitating the separation of said retaining panel from said polymeric bag.

10. A package according to Claim 1, wherein said bottom panel and said retaining panel are symmetrical with respect to one another.

11. A packaging blank that is capable of forming a sleeve that is useful in securing a sealed plastic bag containing a degradable media article, said blank comprising:

a bottom panel;

a retaining panel, said retaining panel being folded over said bottom panel at a common fold line to form an interior sleeve cavity; and

a polymeric bag substantially contained within the sleeve cavity, said polymeric bag being selectively secured to said bottom panel and said retaining panel such that said polymeric bag fails when said retaining panel is unfolded from said bottom panel.

12. A packaging blank according to Claim 11, further comprising a top panel being folded over said bottom panel at a fold line common to said top panel and said bottom panel.

13. A packaging blank according to Claim 12, wherein each of said top panel and said retaining panel define a display window, said top panel display window and said retaining panel display window being positioned on said top panel and said retaining panel, respectively, such that said polymeric bag and its contents are viewable through said top panel display window and said retaining panel display window.

14. A packaging blank according to Claim 12, wherein said top panel, said bottom panel, and said retaining panel are symmetrical with respect to one another.

15. A packaging blank according to Claim 12, wherein said top panel comprises a tear strip, said tear strip having an access tab formed at one end of said tear strip.

16. A packaging blank according to Claim 15, wherein said tear strip is formed by a plurality of perforations.

17. A packaging blank according to Claim 12, wherein said top panel and said bottom panel define a hanging means.

18. A packaging blank according to Claim 17, wherein said hanging means comprises:

a cut-out in said top panel; and

a cut-out in said bottom panel;

wherein said top panel cut-out and said bottom panel cut-out are aligned to correspondingly form a cut-out in said top panel and said bottom panel when said top panel is folded over and against said bottom panel and said retaining panel.

19. A packaging blank according to Claim 11, wherein said polymeric bag is substantially air-tight, such that its failure exposes the interior of said polymeric bag to the environment.

20. A packaging blank according to Claim 19, wherein said polymeric bag holds a degradable media article.

21. A packaging blank according to Claim 19, wherein said polymeric bag holds contents comprising an additive.

22. A packaging blank according to Claim 21, wherein said additive is selected from the group consisting of preservatives, stabilizers, inhibitors, absorbents, and desiccants.

23. A packaging blank according to Claim 11, wherein said retaining panel defines an access opening for facilitating the separation of said retaining panel from said polymeric bag.

24. A packaging blank according to Claim 11, wherein said bottom panel and said retaining panel are symmetrical with respect to one another.

25. A packaging blank that is capable of forming a sleeve that is useful in securing a sealed plastic bag containing a degradable media article, said blank comprising:

a bottom panel having a top boundary, a bottom boundary, a left boundary, and a right boundary;

a retaining panel connected to said bottom panel at said bottom boundary of said bottom panel, said retaining panel being foldable over said bottom panel at a first fold line to form an interior sleeve cavity; and

a top panel connected to said bottom panel at said top boundary of said bottom panel, said top panel being foldable over said bottom panel and said retaining panel at a second fold line.

26. A packaging blank according to Claim 25, further comprising a pair of glue flaps attached to said right boundary and said left boundary of said bottom panel, said glue flaps being foldable over said bottom panel.

27. A packaging blank according to Claim 25, wherein said retaining panel defines an access opening spaced apart from said first fold line, said access opening providing a useful means for facilitating the separation of at least a portion of said retaining panel from said bottom panel when said packaging blank is formed into a sleeve.

28. A packaging blank according to Claim 25, further comprising a tear strip formed on said top panel, said tear strip being spaced apart from said second fold line, said tear strip having an access tab formed at one end of said tear strip for facilitating the removal of said tear strip from said top panel.

29. A packaging blank according to Claim 28, wherein said tear strip is formed by a plurality of perforations.

30. A packaging blank according to Claim 25, wherein said bottom panel and said top panel define a hanging means providing a useful means to hang said packaging blank when formed into a sleeve.

31. A packaging blank according to Claim 30, wherein said hanging means comprises:

- a cut-out in said bottom panel; and
- a cut-out in said top panel.

32. A packaging blank according to Claim 31, wherein said bottom panel cut-out and said top panel cut-out are substantially rectangular shaped, such that said bottom panel cut-out and said top panel cut-out are aligned to correspondingly form a substantially rectangular shaped cut-out when said top panel is folded

over and against said bottom panel and said retaining panel along said second fold line.

33. A packaging blank according to Claim 31, wherein said bottom panel cut-out and said top panel cut-out are substantially hook-shaped, such that said bottom panel cut-out and said top panel cut-out are aligned to correspondingly form a substantially hook-shaped cut-out when said top panel is folded over and against said bottom panel and said retaining panel along said second fold line.

34. A packaging blank according to Claim 25, wherein each of said retaining panel and said top panel define a display window, said retaining panel display window and said top panel display window being positioned on said retaining panel and said top panel, respectively, such that the interior sleeve cavity and its contents are viewable through said retaining panel display window and said top panel display window when said packaging blank is formed into a sleeve.

35. A packaging blank according to Claim 25, wherein said packaging blank consists essentially of a one-piece flexible blank.

36. A packaging blank according to Claim 35, wherein said one-piece flexible blank has an external planar side and an internal planar side, said external planar side being finished.

37. A packaging blank according to Claim 25, wherein said bottom panel and said retaining panel are symmetrical with respect to one another.

38. A packaging blank according to Claim 25, wherein said bottom panel and said top panel are symmetrical with respect to one another.

39. A packaging blank according to Claim 25, wherein said retaining panel and said top panel are symmetrical with respect to one another.

40. A packaging blank according to Claim 25, wherein said bottom panel, said retaining panel, and said top panel are symmetrical with respect to one another.

41. A packaging blank that is capable of forming a sleeve that is useful in securing a sealed plastic bag containing a degradable media article, said blank comprising:

a bottom panel having a top boundary and a bottom boundary;

a retaining panel having a left boundary and a right boundary, said retaining panel connected to said bottom boundary of said bottom panel, said retaining panel being foldable over said bottom panel at a first fold line to form an interior sleeve cavity; and

a top panel connected to said top boundary of said bottom panel, said top panel being foldable over said retaining panel and said bottom panel at a second fold line.

42. A packaging blank according to Claim 41, wherein said retaining panel defines at least one tear line, said at least one tear line being spaced apart from said left boundary and said right boundary of said retaining panel.

43. A packaging blank according to Claim 42, wherein said retaining panel defines an access opening, said access opening being spaced apart from said first fold line and adjacent said at least one tear line for providing a useful means for facilitating the separation of a portion of said retaining panel from said bottom panel when said packaging blank is formed into a sleeve.

44. A packaging blank according to Claim 42, wherein said tear line is formed by a plurality of perforations.

45. A packaging blank according to Claim 41, wherein said bottom panel defines a display window, such that the interior sleeve cavity and its contents are viewable through said bottom panel display window when said packaging blank is formed into a sleeve.

46. A packaging blank according to Claim 41, wherein said packaging blank consists essentially of a one-piece flexible blank.

47. A packaging blank according to Claim 46, wherein said one-piece flexible blank has an external planar side and an internal planar side, said external planar side being finished.

48. A packaging blank according to Claim 41, wherein said bottom panel and said retaining panel are symmetrical with respect to one another.

49. A packaging blank according to Claim 41, wherein said bottom panel and said top panel are symmetrical with respect to one another.

50. A packaging blank according to Claim 41,
wherein said bottom panel, said retaining panel, and said
top panel are symmetrical with respect to one another.